

What is claimed is:

1.

A method of maintaining equipment inspection records, the method comprising:  
inputting equipment data on a remote computer;  
transmitting the equipment data to a host computer;  
storing the equipment data on the host computer;  
selecting the equipment for inspection;  
inspecting the selected equipment;  
determining the inspection results; and  
updating the equipment data with the inspection result.

2.

The method of maintaining the equipment inspection records of claim 1 further comprising accessing the equipment data through a browser.

3.

The method of maintaining the equipment inspection records of claim 1 wherein the equipment data is displayed on a webpage.

4.

The method of maintaining the equipment inspection records of claim 1 wherein the host computer is a network server.

5.

A method of reporting equipment safety information, the method comprising:  
storing equipment information onto a host computer;  
accessing the equipment information from a remote computer;  
inspecting the equipment;  
determining the inspection results;  
storing the inspection results on the host computer;  
accessing the inspection results; and  
generating a report based upon the inspection results and equipment information.

6.

The method of reporting equipment safety information of claim 5 wherein the remote computer is a laptop computer.

7.

The method of reporting equipment safety information of claim 5 wherein the remote computer is a personal digital assistant.

8.

The method of reporting equipment safety information of claim 5 wherein the remote computer is a pen-based computer.

9.

The method of reporting equipment safety information of claim 6 wherein the method further comprises electronically transmitting the report to a desired recipient.

10.

The method of reporting equipment safety information of claim 5 further comprising printing the report.

11.

A system for maintaining inspection information on material handling equipment, the system comprising:  
an identification tag including bar-coded information;  
a bar-code scanner capable of reading the bar-coded information;  
a remote computer operatively linked to the bar-code scanner;  
a host computer operatively linked to the remote computer;  
a database stored on the host computer, the database including the bar-coded information in non-bar-code format; and  
an input device operatively connected to the remote computer for updating the database with inspection information.

12.

The system for maintaining inspection information on material handling equipment of claim 11 wherein the input device is a keyboard.

13.

The system for maintaining inspection information on material handling equipment of claim 11 further comprising a printer.

14.

The system for maintaining inspection information on material handling equipment of claim 11 wherein the host computer is operatively linked to the remote computer via the Internet.

15.

A system for reporting equipment inspection information, the system comprising:  
means for inputting inspection information into a database on a host computer;  
means for accessing the information on the database;  
means for generating a report based on the information; and  
means for transmitting the report to a third party.

16.

A new identification tag for a sling, the identification tag comprising:  
a section of durable material;  
a printed tag affixed to the durable material;  
the printed tag containing bar-coded information relating to the sling; and  
an over laminate to protect the printed tag.

17.

A method of identifying equipment for inspection, the method comprising:  
labeling equipment with an identification tag including bar-coded information relating to the identity of the equipment;  
scanning the bar-coded information; and  
retrieving the identification of the equipment based on the scanned bar-coded information.